

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly newscast

### February 15th 2013

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#### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

## **News story #1**

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### **Vocabulary**

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Pope (leader of the Catholic Church)	resign (to quit one's job)	announced (to say aloud)
cardinals (high ranking priests)	expected (predicted)	make clear (explain)
advisers (people giving advice)	Latin (an ancient language)	Vatican (the Pope's home)

#### **Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:**

**dropped the bombshell** – to announce shocking news

**step down** – to resign; to quit one's job

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ is located in Vatican City, which is an independent state in Rome.
2. Roman Catholics look to the \_\_\_\_\_ for guidance.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ are responsible for electing a new Pope, when the position is empty.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ was spoken in ancient Rome, but is now used only by the Catholic Church.
5. The Prime Minister often asks his \_\_\_\_\_ for help in difficult situations.
6. It is important to \_\_\_\_\_ your decision so the others will not be confused.
7. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to get colder this week.
8. The results of the vote will be \_\_\_\_\_ to the public next week.
9. If the director \_\_\_\_\_ we will need to elect a new one.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

### **Listening Activity: Short Answer**

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. When will Pope Benedict XVI resign?
2. Why will the Pope resign?
3. Who will choose a new Pope?
4. When will they choose a new Pope?
5. How old is the Pope?
6. Who was shocked by his resignation?
7. Usually the Pope keeps his job until he die. When was the last time a Pope resigned?

### **Discussion Question**

Do you think it is a good idea to resign from a job if you are no longer able to complete your duties? What if your job is as important as the Pope?

## News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
1.	scandal	a) making, assembling or packaging
2.	consumer	b) named; to clearly show the type or category of something
3.	authorities	c) to ask the products to be returned
4.	label	d) terrible action that purposefully hides the truth to cheat others
5.	slaughterhouse	e) people who buy a product
6.	processing	f) follow back through a chain of events to find the source
7.	raid	g) cover up or hide the truth
8.	trace	h) a place where animals are butchered/killed for meat
9.	recall	i) police or other persons that uphold the law
10.	disguise	j) unannounced attack or investigation

**Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:**

**taboo** – unacceptable in society

**butcher** – place where we buy meat

**moussaka** - a Greek meal made with eggplant, potatoes, tomatoes and meat.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

### Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. There is a scandal across Europe because _____.	a) horsemeat was being sold as beef. b) beef was being sold as horsemeat.
2. British authorities raided a slaughter house and meat processing company _____.	a) thought to be slaughtering horses b) thought to be labeling horsemeat as beef
3. This was the first time this kind of scandal has been traced to _____.	a) suppliers in Britain b) suppliers in Europe
4. Millions of burgers and meals have been _____ around Europe.	a) discovered b) recalled
5. _____ Romanian butchers disguised horsemeat as beef being sold in meals.	a) European suppliers say b) French authorities believe
6. Horsemeat is _____ in Britain and Ireland, but _____ in France.	a) taboo / a specialty b) a specialty / taboo

### Discussion Question

Why is it important food be labeled carefully and honestly? Do you always read the labels on food products before you buy them?

### **News story #3**

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

**Vocabulary** - Read the definitions below, and then put the sentences in the correct order. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<b>Words and Definitions</b>
celebrating – doing something special because of a special occasion on a particular date
anniversary a date when something special happened
officially – a public and formal way of doing something
medal – a round flat piece of metal given to someone who has won a competition or done something brave
venues – official location for a sports event

1. are We her celebrating birthday a party. with

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2. 14<sup>th</sup> Today our is anniversary. wedding

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3. mayor The officially the downtown arena plan. supports

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4. 18 won Canada 2012 medals at summer Olympics the in

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5. venue hockey game The for the is close house. to my

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

### **Listening Activity: True/False**

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ This year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Calgary Olympics.
2. \_\_\_\_ The official opening of the Calgary Olympic Games was February 14<sup>th</sup> 1988.
3. \_\_\_\_ The Calgary games was the second time the Olympics had been held in Canada.
4. \_\_\_\_ The Calgary competition lasted 16 days.
5. \_\_\_\_ The cost of the Calgary Olympic Games was similar to the cost of the upcoming 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi.

### **Discussion Question**

Do you remember the Calgary Winter Olympic Games? Do you prefer watching the winter or summer Olympics?

## Language Focus

### Capital Letters

Capital letters are an important part of written English. Capital letters are often called upper case letters. The verb *to capitalize* means to change the first letter of a word to a capital letter.

**Capital letter / Upper Case:** A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

**Lower Case:** a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Capitalization rules:

- English sentences always begin with a capital letter
- The pronoun I is always capitalized
- Proper names are always capitalized. The name of a person, continent, country, city, building, or language
- Months and days always begin with a capital letter
- The name of a nationality or an ethnic group
- A significant religious term
- Roman numerals
- The title of a person (Mr., Mrs., Dr.)
- The name of a historical period
- The name of a holiday
- The first word, and each significant word, of a title (of a book, movie, article...)
- Brand names
- Acronyms, abbreviations of longer words or phrases (CIDA – Canada International Development Agency)

Look at the list of rules we use for capitalization. Using the transcripts from this week's stories try to find examples of these different rules being used. *Answers are in the appendix.*

## Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	FEBRUARY 15 <sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Carla Beynon. and you're listening to Learning English with CBC for February 15 <sup>th</sup> .	0:00
Story 1	Pope Benedict XVI announced Monday he will resign February 28 <sup>th</sup> . He says that he doesn't have the strength to do his job. Cardinals are expected to choose a new leader for the Catholic Church in mid-March. The 85-year-old pope dropped the bombshell in Latin during a meeting of Vatican cardinals. His resignation surprised even his closest advisers but the Pope had made clear earlier that he would step down if he became too old or weak to carry on. The last pope to resign was Pope Gregory XII, who stepped down in 1415.	0:09
Story 2	There is a growing scandal across Europe because of a discovery that horsemeat was being sold as beef. On Tuesday, British authorities raided a slaughterhouse and a meat processing company thought to be selling horsemeat labeled as beef. This raid was the first time that horsemeat being sold as beef has been traced to suppliers in Britain. Millions of burgers and frozen meals have been recalled around Europe but it's not clear how horsemeat got into so many beef products. French authorities have said that Romanian butchers had disguised horsemeat as beef being sold in meals like lasagna and moussaka to consumers around Europe. Horsemeat is taboo in Britain and Ireland, but in France it is sold in specialty butcher shops.	0:52
Story 3	Calgarians are celebrating a big anniversary. It has been 25 years since the Olympics came to Calgary. On February 13, 1988 the Winter Games officially opened in the city. It was the first time the Olympics had ever been in Canada, and it was a big party! Canada won 5 medals over the 16 days of competition. The venues built for the games included Canada Olympic Park, the Olympic Oval, and the Saddledome. They are all still used today. The cost for the 1988 Olympics was \$439 million. The cost of the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympic Games is expected to be \$50 billion.	1:47

## Answer keys

### News story 1

#### Vocabulary

1. The Vatican is located in Vatican City, which is an independent state in Rome.
2. Roman Catholics look to the Pope for guidance.
3. The cardinals are responsible for electing a new Pope, when the position is empty.
4. Latin was spoken in ancient Rome, but is now used only by the Catholic Church.
5. The Prime Minister often asks his advisors for help in difficult situations.
6. It is important to make clear your decision so the others will not be confused.
7. It is expected to get colder this week.
8. The results of the vote will be announced to the public next week.
9. If the director resigns we will need to elect a new one.

#### Listening

1. When will Pope Benedict XVI resign? *February 28th*
2. Why will the Pope resign? *He does not have the strength to do his job.*
3. Who will choose a new Pope? *The cardinals will choose a new Pope.*
4. When will they choose a new Pope? *In mid-March*
5. How old is the Pope? *85 years old*
6. Who was shocked by his resignation? *Everyone, including his closest advisers*
7. Usually Popes keep their job until they die. When was the last time a Pope resigned? *In 1415 Pope Gregory XII resigned.*

### News story 2

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
D	1. scandal	a) making, assembling or packaging
E	2. consumer	b) named; to clearly show the type or category of something
I	3. authorities	c) to ask the products to be returned
B	4. label	d) terrible action that purposefully hides the truth to cheat others
H	5. slaughterhouse	e) people who buy a product
A	6. processing	f) follow back through a chain of events to find the source
J	7. raid	g) cover up the truth
F	8. trace	h) a place where animals are butchered/killed for meat
C	9. recall	i) police or other persons that uphold the law
G	10. disguise	j) unannounced attack or investigation

## Listening

1. There is a scandal across Europe because _____.	a) horsemeat was being sold as beef. b) beef was being sold as horsemeat.
2. British authorities raided a slaughter house and meat processing company _____.	a) thought to be slaughtering horses b) thought to be labeling horsemeat as beef
3. This was the first time this kind of scandal has been traced to _____.	a) suppliers in Britain b) suppliers in Europe
4. Millions of burgers and meals have been _____ around Europe.	a) discovered b) recalled
5. _____ Romanian butchers disguised horsemeat as beef being sold in meals.	a) European suppliers say b) French authorities believe
6. Horsemeat is _____ in Britain and Ireland, but _____ in France.	a) taboo / a specialty b) a specialty / taboo

## News story 3

### Vocabulary

1. We are celebrating her birthday with a party.
2. Today is our 14<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.
3. The mayor officially supports the downtown arena plan.
4. Canada won 18 medals at the summer Olympics in 2012.
5. The venue for the hockey game is close to my house.

## Listening

1. This year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Calgary Olympics.
2. EThe official opening of the Calgary Olympic Games was February 14<sup>th</sup> 1988.
3. EThe Calgary games was the second time the Olympics had been held in Canada.
4. TThe Calgary competition lasted 16 days.
5. EThe cost of the Calgary Olympic Games was similar to the cost of the upcoming 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi.

## Language Focus

English sentences always begin with a capital letter

Proper names are always capitalized. The name of a person (*Benedict, Gregory*), continent (*Europe*), country (*Britain, Ireland, France*), building (*Vatican*), or language (*Latin*)

The name of a nationality or an ethnic group *British, Romanian, French*

Months and days *Monday, February, March Tuesday*

A significant religious term *Catholic Church*

Roman numerals *Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Gregory XII*

The title of a person *Pope*